

# Our response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

## Safety and Hygiene for FBCA Kids

We care about the well-being of children in our church and community, and we want you to be informed about our plans for safety and hygiene at First Baptist Church of Asheville.

We specifically wanted to share with you how we are staying up to date with emerging information about the coronavirus and the steps we have and are taking to prepare and prevent the spread of COVID-19. While we have no knowledge of confirmed cases in our area, we are staying current on information through the [North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services](#), [Buncombe County Health and Human Services](#), as well as other community and health leaders. We are working together to follow guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Protection](#). The staff is meeting regularly to review and assess the situation in order to make appropriate and proactive decisions to benefit our members and community.

### WHEN WE GATHER, HERE IS WHAT WE WANT YOU TO KNOW:

**OUR WELL CHILD POLICY.** Please join us when your child is free from the following symptoms for the past 24 hours, without the assistance of medication:

- fever\*
- heavy, frequent, or productive cough
- pink eyes or discharge from eyes
- lethargy
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- green and runny nose
- or any contagious skin condition
- [Coronavirus symptoms](#): fever, cough, shortness of breath

Please do not bring children who have any of these symptoms to church. We hope you will understand that we cannot take children into our classrooms who demonstrate any of these symptoms in the season ahead. Children who appear ill will be isolated and made as comfortable as possible. Parents will be called to come immediately to pick up the child.

### HERE IS WHAT WE ARE DOING:

- \*We have temporarily updated our policy on fevers to ask anyone who has a fever of 99 or higher to stay home until temperature is back to normal range for 24 hours without medication.
- Continuing our sanitation standards. Toys and surfaces are disinfected after each use in every classroom.
- Continuing and improving our handwashing practices and added hand sanitizing stations around the church. We ask you have your child to wash his or her hands with soap and water before entering the classroom.
- Removing re-usable items from the worship carts and will have baggies that have items for your child(ren) to use in worship. We ask you to keep your bag and the items in it.
- Making adjustment to worship practices including
  - Passing of the Peace verbally rather than by shaking hands
  - Discontinuing the practice of communion by intinction (dipping the bread) until further notice.
  - Collecting the offering in baskets by the door as worshipers exit the sanctuary
- Serving food at Wednesday night dinners.

### HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Please work to teach your child to cough or sneeze into their elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home if you or anyone in your family has any flu-like symptoms.
- Be attentive and compassionate to fellow members, friends, and neighbors who are more vulnerable to infection, including older adults and those with pre-existing conditions, those without health-insurance, as well as those who may be affected by income loss due to quarantines or workplace closures.

We will continue to monitor and follow the direction of the CDC as we decide if or when we cancel activities for a season as COVID-19 spreads. You can find information at our website ([www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net)). If we are not able to gather in person we will offer you worship and Bible Study options you can do at home as a family. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.